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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report
DATE: October 9, 2026

School Highlight

This year, the SPCSA is proud to recognize the significant academic progress demonstrated by several of our sponsored schools. In 2026, 11 schools statewide improved by two or more stars on the Nevada School Performance Framework, and four of those 11 schools are SPCSA-sponsored schools:

- Learning Bridge Charter School
- Founders Academy of Las Vegas
- Discovery Charter School – Hillpointe
- Silver Sands Montessori

We also celebrate Strong Start Academy Elementary School, which improved by one star and earned a 5-Star rating for the first time.

These accomplishments reflect much more than a change in a star rating. They represent the sustained work of school boards, leaders, educators, staff, students, and families who remained focused on improving outcomes for students. Significant academic improvement requires strong governance, thoughtful leadership, effective instruction, and a schoolwide commitment to continuous improvement.

The SPCSA recognizes the tremendous effort behind these results and congratulates each of these school communities on their progress. We are especially grateful to the board members and

school staff who have maintained high expectations, responded to performance data, and continued the difficult day-to-day work necessary to improve opportunities and outcomes for Nevada students.

As an authorizer, we want to both celebrate schools demonstrating meaningful progress and continue learning from their work so that successful practices can inform improvement across the SPCSA portfolio.

Delinquent PERS Update

The SPCSA received an updated Outstanding Charter Contribution Balances Report on October 1, 2026.

Innovations	
\$223,665.60	08/01/2026
\$207,218.99	10/01/2026

The report also identified Democracy Prep Charter School as having an outstanding balance of \$185,425.92. SPCSA staff promptly contacted the school.

Executive Order 2026-003 and Review of Charter School Regulations

I want to provide an update on Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2026-003 and our continuing review of regulations affecting Nevada's public charter schools.

Governor Lombardo issued Executive Order 2026-003 on August 17, 2026, directing state agencies to review existing regulations to ensure that they are concise, transparent, relevant, efficient, and streamlined. This builds on the regulatory review initiated under Executive Order 2023-003.

For some context, the SPCSA is directly responsible for 13 regulations in the Nevada Administrative Code related to public charter schools. We previously reviewed those regulations as part of the earlier regulatory review, and the resulting amendments, R080-24, were approved by the Legislative Commission on February 26, 2026.

However, those 13 regulations represent only a small portion of the regulations governing Nevada charter schools. Because the SPCSA, local school districts, and certain municipalities are authorized to sponsor public charter schools, the majority of charter school regulations have been adopted by NDE and the State Board of Education. That structure helps ensure that charter schools operate under a consistent regulatory framework regardless of their sponsor.

As a result, SPCSA has limited authority to independently amend or repeal many of the regulations affecting our schools. We are therefore working collaboratively with NDE as part of this broader regulatory review. I want to thank Superintendent Wakefield and NDE for

undertaking what is a significant review of the state's education regulations and for providing SPCSA the opportunity to participate and provide recommendations.

Our review is initially focusing on two areas that are particularly relevant to charter school operations.

The first is charter school insurance requirements under NAC 388A.190. That regulation was last updated in 2014. We believe there is an opportunity to modernize those requirements so that schools continue to maintain appropriate levels of insurance protection while also ensuring that the requirements remain financially feasible.

The second area is charter school financial regulations under NAC 387.600 through 387.780. These regulations apply to charter schools and the University School for Profoundly Gifted Pupils, and many have not been updated since 2009 or 2014. Nevada's education funding system and financial practices have changed considerably since then, including the transition to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. We want to make sure the regulations accurately reflect the state's current funding structure, financial practices, and reporting requirements.

It is also important to note that some work in this area is already underway. NDE's regulatory index identifies proposed changes within this section of NAC Chapter 387, including the proposed repeal of NAC 387.710, concerning annual capital improvement reporting, amendments to NAC 387.715, concerning budget contents, and repeal of NAC 387.750, concerning reporting of lobbying expenditures. Those changes are currently identified as being in the drafting process under R163-26.

We are also asking our charter school community and other stakeholders to participate in this process. Recommendations may be submitted to the SPCSA through October 29, and stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide recommendations at the October 9 SPCSA Board meeting. We are asking that recommendations identify the specific NAC provision and explain why it should be amended or repealed.

From there, the process will depend on which entity has regulatory authority. For regulations under SPCSA's authority, we will determine whether amendments or repeals are appropriate and proceed through the applicable regulatory process. For regulations adopted by NDE or the State Board, we will provide our recommendations to NDE and work collaboratively with them to evaluate and pursue appropriate changes.

This is ultimately an opportunity to modernize the regulatory framework for Nevada's charter schools—not simply to eliminate regulations. We want to preserve regulations that provide meaningful accountability and protections while identifying provisions that are outdated, duplicative, unclear, unnecessarily burdensome, or no longer aligned with current charter school operations.

We have identified some initial changes, but this review is ongoing. I anticipate bringing additional information back to the Board as stakeholder feedback is received and specific regulatory changes are developed.

New Schools Update

Nexus Academy submitted charter school applications to both the SPCSA and the City of Henderson. Following the SPCSA Board's approval of the school's application at our last meeting, Nexus Academy had approximately 30 days to determine which approved authorizer it would ultimately move forward with.

Nexus Academy has informed the SPCSA that it has elected to proceed with the City of Henderson as its charter school sponsor. Accordingly, the school will not move forward with the SPCSA as its authorizer.

We wish the Nexus Academy team well as they move forward with the City of Henderson and work toward opening and serving students and families in the community.

Current Events

Emergency Regulation

I want to provide an update on an emergency regulation related to Pupil-Centered Funding Plan payments.

The Governor has endorsed an emergency regulation approved by Superintendent Wakefield that temporarily changes how NDE calculates the enrollment used for the adjusted base per-pupil portion of PCFP payments. The regulation was made effective September 28 and, under Nevada law, can remain in effect for no more than 120 days. [Nevada Legislature](#)

The purpose is to mitigate the immediate fiscal impact of declining enrollment. NDE determined that declining enrollment could otherwise result in reductions in force, disruption of services to students, and negative impacts on student learning. The emergency regulation applies to school districts, public charter schools, and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils experiencing enrollment declines.

For charter schools, the practical effect is that the adjusted base per-pupil calculation will temporarily use the greater of two enrollment figures: the school's current applicable quarterly enrollment or the enrollment projection used in the legislatively approved FY 2027 PCFP model. The regulation itself describes this as using the legislatively approved enrollment count in lieu of the current quarterly count when enrollment has declined.

Based on NDE's September 30 discussion with charter schools, we understand that approximately 10 charter schools are expected to receive additional funding as a result of this methodology. Those schools would effectively be funded using the higher legislatively approved enrollment projection rather than the lower current enrollment figure for purposes of the adjusted base per-pupil component.

For payment timing, this will affect the October, November, January, and February payments that are relevant to our schools. The October payment continues to use fourth-quarter FY 2026

ADE as the current-enrollment comparison. Once first-quarter ADE is validated, it becomes the comparison for subsequent payments, and second-quarter enrollment will inform the February payment. NDE has also indicated that it intends to process the February payment in late January so that schools receive it before February 1.

There is also an important change to the true-up process. If a school's quarterly ADE is higher than what was previously funded, its adjusted base per-pupil funding will increase accordingly. If its quarterly ADE is lower, however, there will not be a downward adjustment during this temporary period.

Finally, this is temporary relief, not a permanent change to the PCFP formula. The regulation specifically requires NDE to report the adjusted enrollment figures and payment calculations to the Governor and Legislature by February 1, 2027.

Budget

I also want to provide a brief update on the SPCSA's budget request.

Denise Frohlich and I presented the SPCSA's budget request to the Governor's Office of Finance and Legislative Counsel Bureau fiscal staff on September 23.

At this point, the budget request remains embargoed, so I'm not able to discuss the specific requests or amounts included in it. The details will remain confidential until Governor Lombardo releases his final Executive Budget.

Once the Governor's budget is released, we will be able to provide the Authority with a more detailed update on what was included and the implications for the SPCSA.

Education Service Center Statewide Working Group

I also want to provide an update on the statewide Reporting Efficiency Project being coordinated through the Nevada Education Service Center.

I am participating in the statewide working group, which meets a couple of times each month to review Nevada's existing education reporting requirements and prioritize reports or data collections that could be eliminated, suspended, or consolidated. The goal is not to reduce meaningful accountability or transparency, but to identify duplicative or low-value reporting and opportunities to use information the state already collects. The work also considers process changes that may allow Nevada to "collect once, report multiple times."

The working group has now advanced several recommendations for consideration. One group focuses on class-size and staffing reporting, including potentially suspending the annual Class Size Reduction Plan and variance requests, consolidating public reporting of class-size information through the Nevada Accountability Portal, and suspending the annual staffing and budget comparison report while the usefulness and availability of the underlying data are reviewed.

A second group of recommendations focuses on the Nevada Report Card and related data collections. These include suspending the separate CTE average daily attendance collection and short-term substitute reporting, as well as consolidating attendance and discipline collections so that the same information does not have to be reported through multiple processes. For example, the proposal would eventually use a single discipline data source rather than maintaining both the DF50 and AB285 collections.

The working group has also recommended suspending two additional reports: the annual Physical Conditions of Schools Report and the financial aid activities report submitted by districts and charter schools to the Treasurer's Office. The analysis concluded that the financial aid report, in particular, is not being used to inform decisions and duplicates other ongoing efforts related to FAFSA completion and financial-aid outreach.

These recommendations are being developed through the Education Service Center and statewide working groups for elevation through the established process to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Importantly, a recommendation from the working group does not itself eliminate a reporting requirement. Existing requirements remain in place unless and until the appropriate action is taken under the applicable statutory and regulatory process.

From the SPCSA perspective, I will continue participating in this work to ensure that the charter school perspective is represented, particularly where reporting requirements apply to both school districts and charter schools. The broader objective is to preserve information that is necessary for transparency, accountability, and decision-making while reducing duplicative administrative work that does not add corresponding value. The goal of the ESC is to reduce the time burden of reporting requirements by 50%, or 2750 hours.